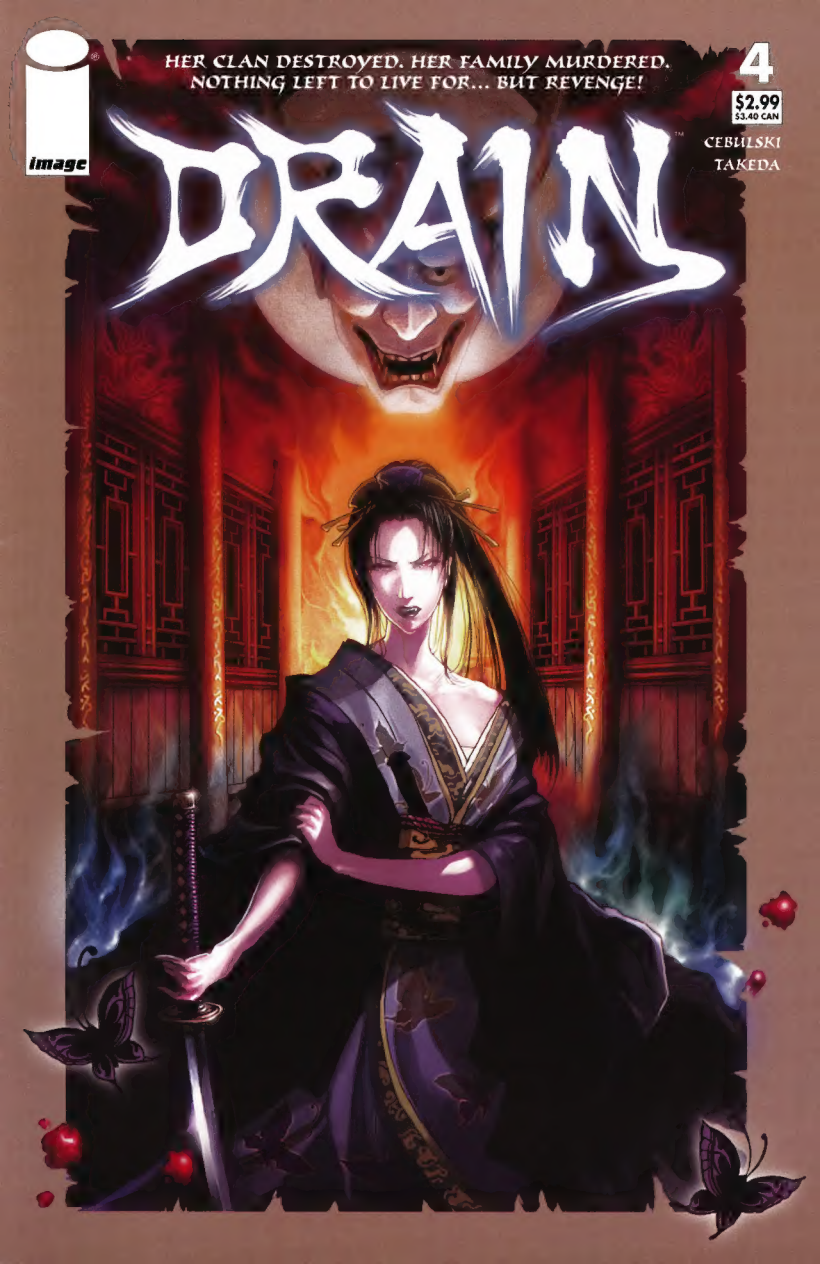
image
HER CLAN DESTROYED. HER FAMILY MURDERED.
NOTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR... BUT REVENGE!
4
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CEBULSKI
TAKEDA

DRAIN™

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SPECIAL THANKS TO AKIHIDE YANAGI

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PARIS. 1813.

FREYA...?
THIS ONE'S STILL ALIVE!!
PLEASE, MADAME. YOU'VE BEEN GRAVELY INJURED.

IT HAD BEEN YEARS SINCE I'D BEEN MORTALLY WOUNDED LIKE THIS.
MY BODY WASN'T USED TO THE SUDDEN SHOCK TO ITS SYSTEM.
MY POWERS KEPT ME ALIVE, BUT MADE ME WEAK.
I NEEDED TO GET MY STRENGTH BACK.
AND ONCE THE FEEDING STARTED...
...I WOULD LET NOTHING GET IN MY WAY!
SHRAK

BACK THEN, WHEN I HUNGERED, MY APPETITES WERE VORACIOUS.
I ACTED LIKE A RABID ANIMAL.
SUCKING BLOOD WITHOUT CARE OR CONTROL.
DRIVEN BY HUNGER.
CONSUMED BY BLOODLUST

ANYTHING THAT STOOD IN MY WAY WAS DESTROYED.
UNTIL THE HUNGER PASSED.
WHEN THE EMOTION WOULD COME AND FLOOD OVER ME.
THE BLOOD COULD BE WASHED OFF MY HANDS.
BUT I COULD NEVER WASH AWAY THE GUILT IN MY HEART...

...OR THE ANGER IN MY SOUL!
FREYA!

I LEARNED FROM MY MISTAKES, THOUGH...
...LEARNED FROM WHAT HAD HAPPENED WITH YOU...
...AND NEVER TURNED ANOTHER VAMPIRE.
I PUT ALL MY OTHER EMOTIONS ASIDE. BOTTLED THEM UP. TOSSED THEM AWAY.
...FOCUSED ON THE ONLY ONE THAT EVER REALLY MATTERED TO ME...
REVENGE!
BUT YOU WERE NEVER THAT STRONG, WERE YOU, FREYA? NEVER THAT FOCUSED.
YOU LET YOUR EMOTIONS RUN YOUR LIFE. LET YOUR FEELINGS DICTATE YOUR ACTIONS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! I WAS NEVER LIKE YOU!
I NEVER LET MYSELF BE RULED BY ANGER OR HATRED!!
NO. YOU WERE CONSUMED BY A DIFFERENT EMOTION. A MORE POWERFUL... A MORE DESPERATE ONE...
JEALOUSY.

NOT ONCE DID I SEEK YOU OUT AFTER YOUR BETRAYAL.
IT WAS YOU WHO FOLLOWED ME ACROSS THE CENTURIES.

WHILE WE BOTH CHASED THE VAMPIRES THAT TURNED US, OUR REASONS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE DIFFERENT.
I WAS DRIVEN BY THE MURDER OF MY FAMILY AND MY CLAN
YOURS WAS NOTHING MORE THAN A PATHETIC, PETTY RIVALRY
NO! IT WAS NOTHING LIKE THAT YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT ME!
I THOUGHT I KNEW YOU ONCE I THOUGHT I LOVED YOU. EVEN
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT
I REALLY DID KNOW NOTHING ABOUT YOU

DON'T YOU DARE TURN YOUR BACK ON ME EVER AGAIN!
DON'T YOU SEE? THERE'S THAT JEALOUSY BOILING UP AGAIN!
COME ON, YOU WANT ANOTHER BITE? THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS ALL ABOUT, RIGHT?
YOU WANT MY BLOOD YOU WANT MY POWER ALL THESE YEARS ..
.. YOU'VE WISHED YOU WERE ME
I MAY BE WEAK NOW, BUT I'M STILL READY TO SETTLE THIS
I'M SICK OF THE GAMES, FREYA OF THIS ENDLESS CYCLE OF CAT AND MOUSE
ONE WAY OR ANOTHER, YOUR LIFE OR MINE, THIS ENDS TONIGHT!
OH, I HAVE NO DOUBT MANY THINGS WILL COME TO AN END VERY SHORTLY

CHINATSU
REIJI

YOU!
AFTER ALL THIS TIME
FINALLY

CLINK
SHRANG
RRAARRGH!!

YOU NEVER LEARN, DO YOU, CHINATSU?
I'LL KILL YOU . YOU SON OF A BITCH.
YOU WANT TO GET CLOSER? BE MY GUEST

HA HA HA HA HA

GGGGRRRRR...
MMMMM...

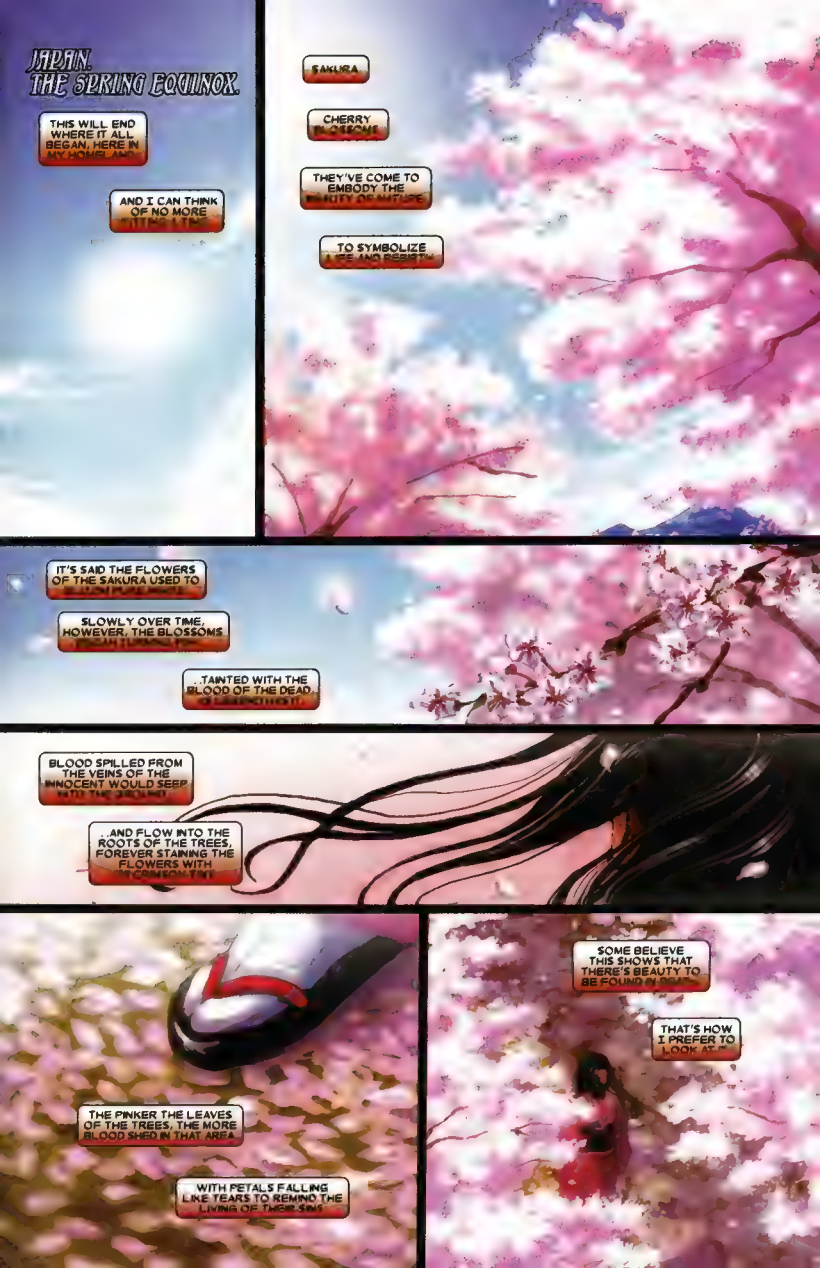
YOU BOTH DISGUST ME! THAT'S WHY YOU'RE PERFECT FOR EACH OTHER
HAHAHAHA
WHO'S THE JEALOUS ONE NOW, CHINATSU?
YOU WHORE! I'LL --
THAT'S ENOUGH, CHINATSU. YOU'RE IN NO SHAPE TO EVEN THINK OF CONTINUING THIS VENDETTA AGAINST ME HERE
WHICH YOU SO CLEVERLY ORCHESTRATED, I HAVE TO ASSUME. YOU'VE BEEN PULLING THE STRINGS ALL ALONG, HAVEN'T YOU? SENDING FREYA OUT TO TEST ME. TO SOFTEN ME UP.
AND YOU SHOW YOUR FACE NOW? WHEN YOU THINK I'M WEAK ENOUGH FOR YOU TO FINALLY CONFRONT?!
HOW TYPICAL OF YOU, REIJI. SENDING YOUR BITCH OUT TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK, WHILE YOU HIDE IN THE SHADOWS
JUST LIKE YOU'VE RUN AND HIDDEN FROM ME FOR THE LAST 400 YEARS!

CHRIING
SHAAAAK
HOW DARE YOU CALL ME A COWARD?!
THUMP

YOU DON'T THINK I COULD HAVE KILLED YOU ANY TIME I LIKED?! I LET YOU LIVE SIMPLY BECAUSE YOU AMUSED ME!
AFTER CENTURIES OF BOREDOM, YOU MADE LIFE INTERESTING! YOU KEPT ME ON EDGE WITH THIS CONSTANT PURSUIT!
I'M A MAN OF PATIENCE, YOU SEE. WITH ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD
I WAS ONLY WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO CONFRONT YOU. *TO END THIS!*
AND THAT MOMENT HAS NOW FINALLY COME, CHINATSU. THAT TIME IS *NOW!*
TIME FOR US TO SETTLE THIS ONCE AND FOR ALL. TIME FOR ONE OF US TO FINALLY PUT THIS GRUDGE TO REST *FOR ETERNITY!*
YOU FINALLY WANT YOUR TASTE, CHINATSU?! *SO BE IT!*
MEET ME ON THE SPRING EQUINOX. AT THE PLACE WHERE THIS ALL BEGAN!
I BELIEVE IT WAS YOU WHO ONCE SAID THAT THE THIRST FOR REVENGE, MUCH LIKE WINE, GETS STRONGER WITH AGE
SPHAASH

:GASP:
YOU... YOU BASTARD...
A BASTARD HE INDEED MAY BE..
...BUT I'M NO ONE'S BITCH!
KRAAA-CU
HWOK

AS THEIR FOOTSTEPS FADE INTO THE
I SWALLOW MY PRIDE AND CHOKE ON MY ANGER.
I'M FORCED TO REMIND MYSELF THAT WE'RE NO LONGER HUMAN.
WE'RE INHUMAN.
WE'RE ANIMALS.
WE HUNT EACH OTHER.
AND REIJI HAS FORGOTTEN THE FIRST RULE OF THE HUNT.
LURE YOUR PREY INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I'VE JUST DONE.
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA


JAPAN.
THE SPRING EQUINOX.
THIS WILL END WHERE IT ALL BEGAN, HERE IN MY HOMELAND.
AND I CAN THINK OF NO MORE FITTING A TIME
SAKURA
CHERRY BLOSSOMS
THEY'VE COME TO EMBODY THE BEAUTY OF NATURE
TO SYMBOLIZE LIFE AND REBIRTH.
IT'S SAID THE FLOWERS OF THE SAKURA USED TO
SLOWLY OVER TIME, HOWEVER, THE BLOSSOMS
..TAINTED WITH THE BLOOD OF THE DEAD.
BLOOD SPILLED FROM THE VEINS OF THE INNOCENT WOULD SEEP
..AND FLOW INTO THE ROOTS OF THE TREES, FOREVER STAINING THE FLOWERS WITH
THE PINKER THE LEAVES OF THE TREES, THE MORE BLOOD SHED IN THAT AREA.
..WITH PETALS FALLING LIKE TEARS TO REMIND THE LIVING OF THEIR SINS.
SOME BELIEVE THIS SHOWS THAT THERE'S BEAUTY TO BE FOUND IN
THAT'S HOW I PREFER TO LOOK AT

AFTER MY CLAN... MY FAMILY... MY ENTIRE VILLAGE... WAS SLAUGHTERED BY REIJI AND HIS MINIONS, I DID NOT HAVE THE TIME OR THE MEANS TO PERFORM THE PROPER FUNERAL CEREMONIES.
I BURIED ALL THEIR BODIES HERE BENEATH THESE CHERRY BLOSSOMS INSTEAD. EACH AND EVERY INNOCENT VICTIM...
IT'S THE BLOOD OF MY ANCESTORS THAT GIVES THESE TREES THEIR COLOR... SOME OF THE DEEPEST OF PINKS IN ALL JAPAN.
AND TODAY, THERE WILL BE MORE BLOOD SPILLED ON THESE SACRED GROUNDS.
IT WILL BE THE BLOOD OF MY ENEMY, WHICH THE TREES WILL DRINK TO FINALLY APPEASE THE SPIRITS OF MY FAMILY AND CLAN THAT LAY IN REST HERE.
...OR MY BLOOD, WHICH WILL FINALLY BE JOINED WITH THEIRS AS IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN SO MANY CENTURIES AGO.
EITHER WAY, THERE WILL BE BEAUTY IN DEATH THIS DAY.
TO BE CONTINUED...

CHINATSU
by Ricardo Tercio
http://www.mautempo.blogspot.com/

NEXT ISSUE

Chinatsu's quest for vengeance comes full circle and brings her back to where it all began... Japan! As she returns to confront her past and put her demons to rest once and for all, she's in for a few surprises. Will spilling the blood of her enemies finally help her find the closure she has been searching for so long?

image

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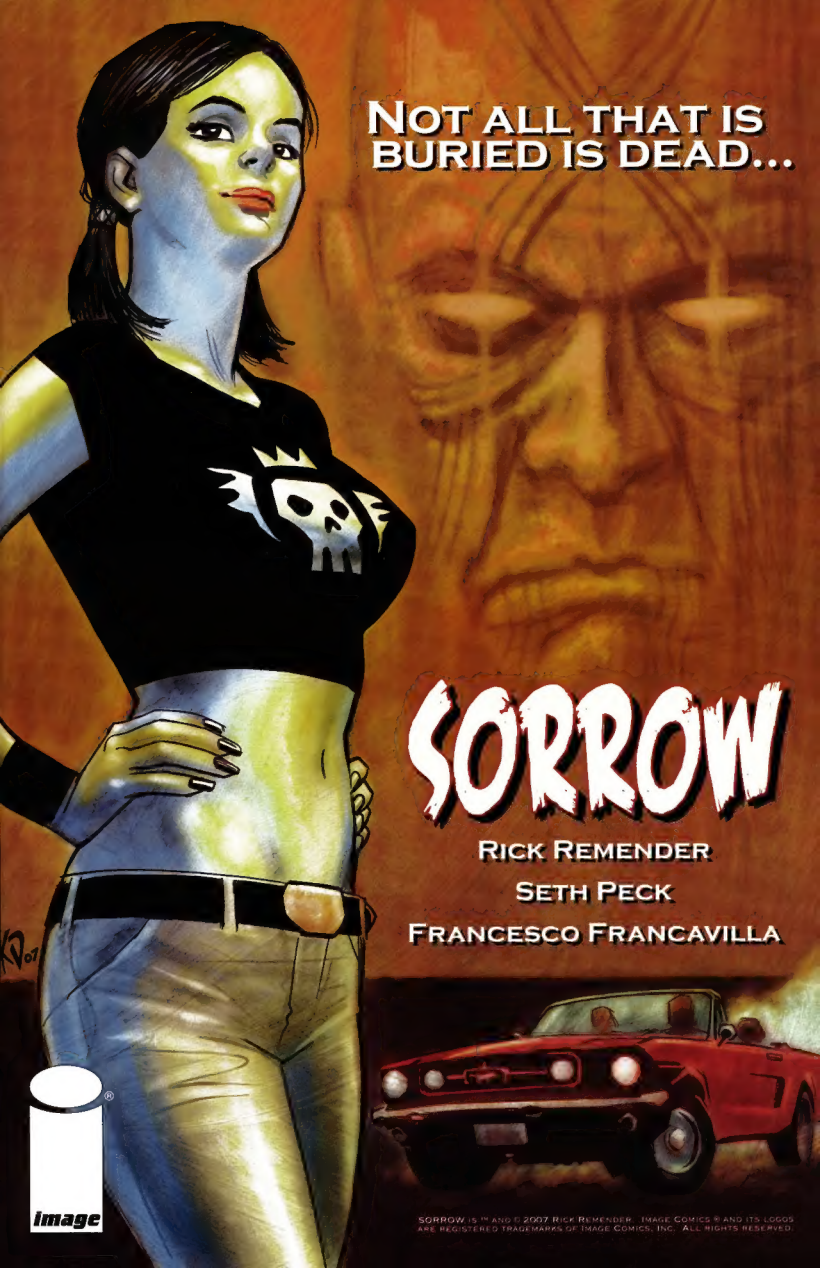

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